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Janata Alliance Can't Even Provide A Stable Opposition—P. M.

THE choice before India's 320 million voters in the coming Parliamentary election is between democracy and disruption, the Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi, has said.

In an Exclusive interview to the National Herald, the Prime Minister said that to hand over the government to coalitions "which contain contradictory pulls" is to forfeit the strength gained by the country in the last 30 years and "to throw the nation into confusion."

Mrs Gandhi doubted whether the opposition groups could even provide a stable opposition, let alone a stable Government.

"They are trying to make the Government unstable. I don't think that they can succeed in keeping their own stability. I think Mr. Jagjivan Ram or somebody said that the Opposition has only a one point programme. This is an old slogan. There is nothing new in it. It is the same goal and the same game as in 1971"

The Prime Minister said the slogan which they (the opposition parties) were raising of "democracy versus dictatorship" was a little "pompous". "The real choice is between democracy and disruption."

"The people of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and so on are well aware of the manner in which the coalition Governments there functioned. Their present claim that these very diverse elements of different parties have come together, or merged into one party is difficult to believe.

"I doubt whether they can shed either personal ambitions or their different, separate identities so easily.

"We all know what they are against. What we want to know is what they are for. They have promised all things to all men. But it is difficult to take it very seriously."

The following is the text of the interview:

Q.: The opposition parties with varied programmes and objectives have joined together as Janata Party to fight the Congress at the polls. The common man may feel confused and even bewildered by such a combination, particularly after his experience of the SVD-type Governments in the states. Can such a diverse combination provide a stable Government or a opposition?

PM: As the Herald said in one of its editorials, one does not normally vote for an opposition, one votes for a Government. But I don't think they expect to form the Government. That is why they are talking about a strong opposition. I doubt whether they can even provide a stable opposition. I don't think that they can succeed in keeping their own stability. They are trying to make the Government unstable.

I think Mr. Jagjivan Ram or somebody said that the opposition has only a one-point programme. This is an old slogan. There is nothing new in it. It is the same goal and the same game as in 1971.

The slogan which they are raising, of "Democracy versus Dictatorship" is a little pompous, if I may say so. The real choice is between democracy and disruption. As you mentioned in question, the people of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and so on are well aware of the manner in which the coalition governments there functioned. Their present claim that these very diverse elements of different parties have come together, or merged into one party, is difficult to believe. I doubt whether they can shed either their personal ambitions or their different, separate identities so easily.

VARIED PROMISES

We all know what they are against. What we want to know is what they are for. They have promised many things in their manifesto - in fact all things to all men. But it is difficult to take it very seriously. Now one gentleman, Shri Charan Singh, said that Janata policy will be to dismantle all textile mills. In fact, he had said this to me much earlier when he was Chief Minis-

ter. But he had no idea as to what would happen to those who were working in the mills—and they are in very large numbers—or what would happen to people's requirements, whether the handlooms would be able to provide the entire quantity of cloth needed immediately. I am personally very deeply interested in the handloom weavers' welfare as well as in the production of handloom material. As you know, it is one of the items of 20-Point Programme.

But what about the other units of the Janata Party? Are they also for this programme?

I think basically the Janata Party manifesto is a charter to dismantle the approach of socialism, secularism and non-alignment which Jawaharlal Nehru had built up and following which path we have achieved considerable success.

Q: Mr. Jagjivan Ram has formed the Congress for Democracy, implying that there is a danger to democracy. Would you like to spell out as to what in your opinion constitutes a threat to democracy? How do you view the defections of the type which have brought into being the Congress for Democracy?

PM: The real threat to the country is when economic progress is jeopardised. To solve any problem, the country must be strong. It must withstand pressures from different groups within the country and different forces outside the country. So anything that weakens the country is a threat to our democracy. I am afraid that before the Emergency we were sliding or drifting into that sort of situation. That was the reason for the imposition of the Emergency. True democracy does not mean merely that the press should have a licence to say whatever it wants, whether true or not. It means that the majority of our people who are still without many of their basic needs, have to be enabled to get the benefit of democracy, of freedom, and to be made self-reliant enough to bear the responsibility of citizenship. That is how I view democracy. Of course elections and freedom of expression are important. But freedom of expression cannot mean that you have a licence to say or do anything you like even if it may not be in the national interest.

So far as Shri Jagjivan Ram and his associates are concerned, it is very difficult to understand them. Had the Emergency been imposed just now, one could have understood that they felt bad about it. But it is more than one-and-a-half years since that took place.

(Contd. on page 7)

THUS SPAKE THE MAHATMA

I am a humble but very earnest seeker after Truth. And in my search, I take all fellow-seekers in uttermost confidence so that I may know my mistakes and correct them.

ASOKA SCENTED BETEL NUT POWDER

Free India

SUNDAY March 6, 1977

"HARE RAM!"

Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi seems to have got what he and his colleagues have longed for—to win a better image for his DMK after the recent revelations of rampant corruption.

Only recently, Janata Party leader Morarji Desai came all the way to Madras to give his blessings to the D. M. K. He just stopped with saying that the dismissal of the DMK Ministry was a political decision. Mr. Karunanidhi didn't have the guts (or the face?) to sit along with Morarji on the dais at the public meeting the latter addressed.

Now the chief of the Congress for Defectors, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, has not only given a clean chit to the corrupt and cycle chain democracy of the D. M. K., but revealed a gunpowder plot.

After a close hug with the corruption chief, Mr. Jagjivan Ram told a public meeting at Madras: "I knew Mr. Karunanidhi with his competence and sense of independence, would not be permitted to continue in office for long by the Prime Minister. Therefore I had advised him to keep the powder dry and I am happy he has kept the powder dry."

And a jubilant Karunanidhi responded with an ugly grin: "The powder has been kept dry for the last one and a half years. You have come to use it. Please use it."

The powder failed to ignite.

This shows that the Prime Minister has been sitting on a powder Keg—only Mr. Jagjivan Ram did not get an opportunity to ignite it. And it also shows how democratically tolerant has the "dictator" been towards these doubtful characters.

Mr. Jagjivan Ram is notorious for his forgetfulness. And one need not be surprised if he forgets the "gun powder" episode and begs for a seat in the Union Cabinet after the Janata rout. He can defect.

India Can Become A Super Power

By F. J. DALAL

I am an India-born naturalized citizen of the U.S.A. and take pride in my rich Indian heritage. I believe, the two largest democracies in the world, India and the U.S.A., will have to learn to develop mature and durable balanced relationship in economic, cultural and scientific fields in spite of ideological, philosophical and cultural differences rooted in geography and history.

In about a month's time, a clearer picture of India's political climate will emerge. India's place in history is destined as a super power in the coming decade, provided the right kind of leadership is chosen by the electorate at this historic juncture and a realistic polic of national development is vigorously pursued by the elected government thereafter.

I offer the following few fundamental and unorthodox observations in the light of my intimate past association with India's socio-political processes as well as a sufficiently wide exposure to the free enterprise system in the U.S.A.:

DEMOCRACY

India cannot go back to the permissive and wasteful type of democracy. It will have to pursue disciplined constitutional parliamentary democracy based on a genuine two-party system. Provision of primary needs of the masses will take precedence over the fundamental individual rights.

SANJAY GANDHI

Sanjay proved the importance of youth leadership in India as an alternative to the entrenched establishment.

BANKS AND INSURANCE

Banks and insurance have to be denationalized and a strict watch dog type of legislation should closely oversee their activities. All the other public sector industries and Government functions will have to be streamlined by installing qualified and imaginative managers in place of present bureaucrats. Nuclear, electronics and oil industries be given top priority.

LABOUR

All kinds of labour strikes will have to be totally banned for the achievement of uninterrupted production. The principle of 'one bargaining agent in one unit' may be adopted to abolish political multiplicity of unions providing power base to irresponsible elements.

WORK ETHICS

A 40-hour five-day work-week be established throughout India. Wages based on hourly rates be disbursed every two weeks. Ten national holidays and 30 days leave (privilege, sick, casual and others) per calendar year be proclaimed for all working people.

ECONOMIC CRIMES

Vigilance squads be established in every locality throughout the country to eradicate hoarding, black marketing, profiteering, smuggling and corruption. Severe summary punishments be enforced by a strict administrative law. This will lead to the emergence of youth leadership at the grass root level.

POPULATION CONTROL

Sterilization of all adults having two or more children is absolutely essential for controlling population explosion. Abortion be legalized and adoption laws be liberalized. All medical and paramedical professionals be drafted to a two-year national service on decent remuneration before awarding degrees.

PAROCHIALISM AND SECTARIANISM

Political activities of all linguistic and religious organizations be banned. All sorts of reserved seats in elections and preferences for Muslims, Scheduled Castes and Tribes, Anglo-Indians and others be abolished.

EDUCATION

Hindi be taught compulsorily in all schools throughout the country. All education up to high school be made compulsory and provided totally free. Emphasis be laid on technical aspects, dignity of labour, and application of theoretical knowledge.

RADIO AND TELEVISION

Annual license fees for radios and televisions be abolished and the loss of revenue be made up through commercial advertisements.

TAX LAWS

Nationwide uniform sales tax law be passed with exemption on food, medical, and educational supplies. Income-Tax law be simplified. A standard deduction of first Rs. 4,000 of income be granted per return filed. A personal exemption of Rs. 500 for each in the family be given with a maximum of Rs. 2,000. This will encourage late marriages and discourage more than two children in the family. All perquisites and expense accounts be fully taxed.

DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS

All Indian embassies in foreign countries be staffed by a few, but efficient and enlightened personnel who can create better image of India through objective activities and organise contacts with thriving and prosperous migrant Indian communities.

CUSTOM DUTIES

Custom duties be totally abolished on all gifts sent from foreign countries to friends, relations and institutions in India, except when profit or political motives are proved.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Foreign exchange regulations be thoroughly revised so that non-resident bank accounts of all types including blocked accounts of tax paid life savings of migrant Indians can be operated freely without any restrictions whatsoever to facilitate international trade and variety of other economic and cultural activities. All exports of food items and coarse clothings be banned.

—National Herald

Major Ports

India has ten major ports, namely, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Cochin, Visakhapatnam, Mormugao, Kandla, Paradip, New Tuticorin.

The ports of Bombay and Mormugao showed a record performance in handling the ships and traffic in January 1977. While the Bombay Port handled 323 ships, the Mormugao Port handled 17, 42, 253 tonnes of traffic.

All the major ports handled a total of 752 ships and 62, 50, 511 tonnes of traffic—29, 04, 381 tonnes of imports and 31, 46, 130 tonnes of exports—during the said period.

Besides, 96 vessels for foodgrains, fertilizers and general cargo were lying berthed at various ports towards the close of the month.

Lok Sabha Elections

CONTESTS IN TAMIL NADU

A significant feature of the contests in Tamil Nadu this time is the straight fight between the rival factions of Congress and DMK. All India ADMK is fighting its erstwhile parent party DMK in 14 constituencies, while Congress (O) is opposing the Congress in ten constituencies.

The AIADMK is opposing Congress (O) in five places and CPM in one constituency; while CPI is fighting Congress (O) in two constituencies, CPI and CPM are clashing in one constituency and the only nominee of the Indian Union Muslim League supported by Congress and AIADMK is facing opposition from Congress (O) in Vellore constituency.

The polarization of political parties has not kept away the Independents from jumping into arena. There are 105 Independents in the field now against a mere 26 in 1971. Consequently, the number of multi-cornered contests has also increased from 23 to 35. Straight contests are limited to four constituencies this time, against 16 in 1971. The maximum number of contestants in any single constituency was five in 1971: it has gone up to nine this time. Three cornered fights have gone up to ten from eight. All the numerals upto nine are adequately represented this time whereas it did not go beyond five in 1971.

A total of 195 candidates are in the field contesting for 39 seats in Tamil Nadu. In the last election, there were only 111 candidates in the field. The increase in the number of candidates is mainly due to the Independents who number 105 as against 26 in 1971. There will be straight contests only in four constituencies this time as against 16 in 1971.

Arkonam and Krishnagiri constituencies have the maximum number of nine contestants.

The Union Finance Minister, Shri C. Subramaniam, is contesting from the new constituency of Palani. Opposing him is the DMK nominee Shri Swaminatha Gownder. There is also one Independent in the field.

All the three constituencies of Madras city will witness keen contests. Shri R. Venkataraman, a former Industries Minister of Tamil Nadu, contests for the Madras South seat as Congress nominee. He is opposed by Shri Murasoli Maran, DMK member of the dissolved Lok Sabha and six independents.

Shri K. Manoharan, Deputy General Secretary of AIADMK and a member of the dissolved Lok Sabha, will be facing the DMK leader, A.V.P. Asai Thambi and six others in Madras North. Shri Manoharan was returned to the Lok Sabha from the same constituency in the previous two General Elections.

Another prestigious constituency is the newly created Madras Central from where the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee (O) President, Shri P. Ramachandran, is seeking election to Lok Sabha. He is opposed by AIADMK nominee Shri K. Raja Mohammed and six others.

Madurai is another important constituency; Shri P. Ramamurthy, CPM leader, who was unseated by Congress in 1971 is opposing the Congress nominee, Shri R.V. Swaminathan, and four Independents. Mr. Swaminathan was a member of the dissolved Lok Sabha.

Two former DMK Ministers of Tamil Nadu, Shri K. Rajaram and Shri N. Rajangam are seeking election to the Lok Sabha from the Salem and Chidambaram (reserved) constituencies respectively. Shri Rajaram is opposed by AIADMK nominee Shri Kannan and four Independents, while Shri Rajangam is locked up in a straight fight with AIADMK nominee.

In Coimbatore, Shrimati Parvathy Krishnan, CPI member of the dissolved Lok Sabha, is facing Congress (O) candidate Shri Lakshmana Thevar in a straight contest. In Thanjavur, AIADMK leader, Shri S.D. Somasundaram, who is seeking reelection is opposed by Shri L. Ganesan, DMK nominee. In Chidambaram and Thanjavur constituencies, the contests are between DMK and AIADMK. In Nagapattinam and Coimbatore CPI is opposed by DMK and Congresss (O) respectively.

Shri Era. Chezhian, DMK member of the dissolved Lok Sabha and leader of the DMK Parliamentary party is seeking reelection this time from Chinglepattu constituency, as Kumbakonam from where he was returned to the Lok Sabha in the previous two eletions has been abolished as a result of the recent delimitation. Against him are AIADMK candidate Shri Mohanarangam and five Independents. This seat was held by DMK in the last two Lok Sabhas.

Shri O V. Alagesan, Congress Member of the dissolved Lok Subha and a former Minister of State, and Shri G. Bhuvaraghan, Congress Member of the dissolved Lok Sabha and a former Congress Minister of Tamil Nadu are two others seeking reelection from new constituencies. Their old constituencies, Thiruthani and Mettur respectively have been abolished under the recent delimitation. Shri Alagesan who is contesting from the newly created Arkonam constituency is opposed by a DMK nominee and seven Independents.

Mr. G. Bhuvaraghan is opposing Congress (O) nominee Shri S. Radhakrishnan, (member of the dissolved Lok Sabha) and two Independents in the Cuddalore constituency.

Another important constituency is that of Tiruchirappalli from where Shri M. Kalyanasundaram, CPI leader, is seeking reelection to the Lok Sabha. Facing him is Congress (O) nominee, Shri Venkateswara Dikshidar, a sitting member of the State Legislative Council and three Independents. In the last election also, his main opponent was a Congress (O) nominee.

In Dindigul Shri K. Maya Thevar, AIADMK leader and member of the dissolved Lok Sabha is opposed by Shri P K. Mookaihya Thevar, Forward Block Leader, who represented Ramanathapuram constituency in the previous Lok Sabha. A CPM nominee and three Independents are also in the field.

The fight for the Nagercoil seat which was held by the late Congress (O) leader Shri K. Kamaraj is mainly between Congress and Congress (O). TNCC (O) General Secretary Kumari Anandan is opposed by the Congress nominee Shri M. Moses and five Independents.

Shri K.S. Ramaswamy, TNCC, Vice-President and a former Deputy Minister is seeking election from Gobichettipalayam constituency. Opposing him are the Congress (O) candidate and two Independents. This seat was held by DMK in the previous two Lok Sabhas.

In the newly created Rasipuram (SC) constituency Shrimati Jothi Venkatachalam, Congress (O) a former Minister of Tamil Nadu is pitted against the Congress nominee Shri Devarajan. There is also an Independent in the contest.

ADMK, a breakaway group of AIADMK, led by Kovai Chezhiyan has set up a candidate in Pudukkottai constituency where AIADMK is opposing Congress (O).

Shri S. A. Muruganandam. CPI, member of the dissolved Lok Sabha who was recently expelled from the party is seeking re-lection as an Independent from the Tirunelveli constituency which he represented in the last Lok Sabha. He is opposing DMK and AIADMK nominees.

Past Performance of Parties

The statistics of the performance of the political parties in Tamil Nadu in the preceding four Lok Sabha elections is quite interesting to study.

The Congress in 1957 contested for all the 41 seats and won 31. In 1967 its performance was unbelievably poor. Contesting for all the 39 seats, it just got 3 seats. After the split, the Congress contested for 9 seats in 1971 snap elections and won all of them.

The DMK has been consistent at the polls. It contested just for 2 Lok Sabha seats in 1957 and won both of them. It fielded 25 candidates in 1967 elections and all of them were elected. The elections of 1971 saw 24 DMK candidates in the fray and all but one came out successful.

Details of the number of candidates contested and elected, partywise, in the previous four elections in Tamil Nadu are shown in the following table.

PARTY	No. of candidates: Contested 1957	1962	1967	1971	Elected 1957	1962	1967	1971
Congress	41	40	39	9	31	31	3	9
Congress (O)	—	—	—	29	—	—	—	1
D. M. K.	2	18	25	24	2	7	25	23
C. P. I.	13	14	7	4	2	2	—	4
C. P. M.	—	—	5	6	—	—	4	—
Swatantra	—	16	8	9	—	—	6	—
Jan Sangh	—	1	4	1	—	—	—	—
P. S. P.	7	5	1	—	—	—	—	—
S. S. P.	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Socialist	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
T. N. P.	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Muslim League	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Labour	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Forward Block	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1
Republican	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Independents	77	50	36	26	6	—	1	—

The Ecological Balance

Conservation Of Wild Life

By DR. SALIM ALI

It is a matter of some satisfaction to all of us interested in the conservation of Nature, that there is now at last a growing awareness and interest in India in the preservation of wildlife and wild places.

What is now required is the understanding of the fact that human ecology is an integral part of Nature conservation, and all who take a total view of life on earth must realise that man's future cannot be considered separately from that of other life.

From the time that man became an agriculturist and husbandman, thereby enabling himself to overcome to natural constraints that had kept the numbers of his predecessor–the hunter and forager-within the environmental capacity man's impact on his environment has been largely disastrous.

ENDANGERED NATURAL RESOURCES

As far as forests and wildlife are concerned there can be hardly any doubt that we in India have been living prodigally off an abundant capital. A study on any endangered natural resource shows that the basic problem in every case, and invariably, is the ever-increasing—'exploding' is the right word—human population, leading to a constant erosion of that resource.

In an article in the Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society, M.S. Randhawa provides historical evidence to prove that in the last 2000 years there has been a progressive desiccation of northern India.

As an example he cites the changes that have occurred in the Mathura region of Uttar Pradesh. That area apparently once received over 2000 m.m. of rainfall as against the present 600.

The Mathura region appears to have degraded within historical times from an area capable of supporting luxuriant forests to one with a semi-desert type of vegetation, rather similar to that of the Rajasthan desert.

THREAT TO WILDLIFE

The loss in the productivity of the land and the consequent degradation of the environment is nowhere more clearly shown than in the history of some of our endangered species of wildlife.

The distribution of the great Indian rhinoceros sufficiently illustrates this point. The ponderous animal, now restricted to the swampy riverain forests of a few sanctuaries in Assam, West Bengal and Nepal, was found in historic times from Peshawar—where the Moghul Emperor Humayun hunted it—eastward across the Gangetic Plain to Assam.

The fact that the rhinoceros requires a swampy grass jungle to exist, is a pointer to the conditions then obtaining in areas which are now practically desert.

The pinkheaded duck, another resident of the same swampy habitat, became extinct in the thirties of the present century. Loss of its habitat, combined with the fact that it nested on the ground among reeds and not up in tree holes like our other resident ducks, is possibly one of the main reasons for the disappearance of the species.

The distribution of the lion in this country is perhaps further evidence of the result of man-made environmental changes. The widespread extension in the range of the lion as a dweller of dry habitates in North India was possibly correlated with the withdrawal of moist conditions in the Indo-Gangetic Plain.

This was the result of large scale clearing of the original forest as more and more land was brought under cultivation for an ever-increasing human population. The lion itself eventually fell a victim to the rising population pressure, losing its habitat to cultivation.

TRAGIC SITUATION

Habitat destruction is the primary reason for the disappearance of rarity of most of our wildlife. and under present conditions there seems every likelihood that the process of destruction will continue. It is, indeed, a tragic situation.

There is not enough land for all the land-hungry, and much of the land that is now being cleared under population pressure—some of it magnificent primaeval evergreen forest—will surely be abandoned in a permanently ruined state—another martyr to human irresponsibility.

It would appear that what is really needed is not more land for cultivation, but better utilization of the land that is already under cultivation.

The disappearance of the rhinoceros the lion or the tiger are examples striking enough to attract wide attention even of the layman, but there is a considerable invisible loss which by nature of its obscureness seldom comes to notice.

One example of such is the loss suffered by the agricultural economy of the country due to the thoughtless destruction of the predators or agricultural pests. And hardly any voice is raised in protest.

The reptile skin trde, running into hundreds of tons annually–happily banned at last–effectively removed the snakes and lizards which are amongst the most stringent natural checks on rats and other rodent crop-pests.

Similarly the trade in frogs' legs removes one of the important regulators of the pro populations of harmful insects and other small animals. One observable effect of this commercial exploitation of frogs is the marked increase in land crabs which destory paddy seedlings, and whose numbers were kept in check by the frogs.

Due to superstitious prejudice and ill-founded allegations against owls and the diurnal birds of prey, man axes his own legs, as it were. Their senseless destruction deprives agriculture and forestry of the services of some of man's staunchest allies in the ceaseless battle against the fecund tribe of rats and other scourges like the locust.

HAZARD TO ENVIRONMENT

In recent years advanced technology has, paradoxically enough, added dangerously to the hazards to wildlife and environments by the introduction of chemical pesticides and hericides in the campaign to grow more food for the burgeoning human population. By the poisonous pollution these have brought about, of water, earth and air, they are boomeranging on man himself.

Whatever conservation measures are now undertaken, or may be undertaken in the future, can be expected to function as no more than stop gaps, and no permanent remedy for the prevailing ecological imbalance can be devised unless and until the human population is effectively contained.

This then is the problem. Unless man is able to discipline himself, there is no hope of avoiding the ecological disaster towards which he is rapidly heading. In order to restore and regulate the ecological balance, conservation now demands that the human population be drastically controlled, not only for the wise use of the available natural resources but for the very existence of man himself.

To find the remedies one must examine the causes. The evolution of man, unlike that of other animals has, above all, been the evolution of his brain. This is what has enabled him to overcome the limitations natural to other animals.

He meets and deals with his environment at two levels: firstly the intellectual, aided by the vast area of knowledge available to him because of his intellect, and secondly the physical level in which he is in no way different from other animals. His reproductive capacity lies in the second plane, and to control it the approach should be through knowledge of the reproductive function of other animals.

A BUILT-IN MECHANISM

To this end fruitful research could be undertaken on the factors that cause seasonal reproductive behaviour in other animals, and whether it would be possible to permanently extend the inhibitory forces. On the face of it this does not seem an impossible task since, in reverse, we have succeeded in breaking down the seasonal inhibitory force in domestic animals.

For instance the red jungle fowl—the ancestor of our domestic poultry-has, unlike the latter, only a fixed and limited breeding season in nature. It is a curious fact, but true, that in truly social insects, such as ants and bees, the majority of individuals are sterile. Thus there is a built-in population control mechanism in the community. Can this model not be emulated by humans ?

Whatever method we employ, the intellectual or the physical or a combination of both, time is running out for man. He must realise that his body, like that of other animals, is subject to narrow physical and chemical constraints, and that however intellectually versatile he may be, he could become a victim of ecological disaster just as any other animal if he refuses to to pay heed to the warnings of a misused natural system working under fixed natural laws. To us in India especially, this is the writing on the wall.

(Courtesy : Akashvani, Delhi)

Vedanthangal

ELECTION SCENE

Karnataka: Hopes Based On Reality

The Congress may not face much difficulty in Karnataka, which has been traditionally the ruling party's fort. Contesting all the 28 seats, the Congress is hopeful of winning atleast 20 seats. The Janata Party leaders, however, expect some surprising results in the coming elections. The Janata Party is fielding 27 candidates leaving the remaining one to the Congress for Democracy. The CPI s fighting in three constituencies.

There has been an increase of over three million voters since 1971. The total electorate now is 16,849,487. The number of Lok Sabha seats went up from 27 to 28.

Six years ago the Congress won all the 27 seats polling 70.88% of the votes cast. Though its performance during the 1972 Assembly elections was lower with 61.56 per cent of votes, the Congress position has not deteriorated further.

This time it hopes to cash on various welfare measures undertaken by the Urs government during the last few years. There is however a doubtful area Harijan voters. In order to woo them, the State Government has announced a number of concessions in employment.

Nevertheless, the Janata Party has started its campaign with a bang. Its public meetings are largely attended. Its candidates include 10 persons who have recently been released from dention. Most of them are comparatively young.

The Congress for Democracy is a late come to Karnataka. The Party had to undergo some pangs as it was formed in the State. Mr. Rachaiah, a former Minister in the Urs Cabinet and Harijans leader, set out to form a state unit of the Party. A few days later Mr. D. Rajagopal, an MLC and dissident Congressman, walked out of Congress along with 7 legislators and 8 others to form the CFD. The Party's headquarters in Delhi naturally recognised Mr Rajagopal as its state Chief because he had brought with him a number of followers to strengthen the State unit. Angered by this Mr Rachaiah resigned from the CFD and declared his candidature from the Kolar (reserved) constituency. The impact of the launching of the CFD in the State is not much despite the claim by Mr Rajagopal to the contrary.

Andhra: Congress Stronghold

In the coming Lok Sabha elections the Congress is expected to get through without much difficulty in Andhra Pradesh, despite the joining up of a handful of opposition parties. It is because of the sound economic position of the State. While the agricultural sector has made remarkable progress, the industrial sector has been making rapid strides, with more than 70 industries having sprung up in the last one year or so.

Consequently the opposition has to rely on its slogan against the emergency, which will not carry it too far to win a sizeable number of seats in the poll. The people in the State cannot be won over by such demands as lifting of the emergency, as their lives had been unaffected generally by the emergency.

A look at the previous election records show the strong foot-hold the Congress has in the State. Of the 41 seats from Andhra in the dissolved Lok Sabha, 39 were held by the ruling party. The remaining two seats were shared between CPI and CPM. The Congress (O), BLD, Jana Sangh and SSP constituents of the present Janata Party together failed miserably in 1971, polling a mere 12% of the votes as against the Congress's 55.70%

Battle Lines in U.P.

With the tempo of electioneering just picking up in Uttar Pradesh, the rival parties are making claims of wide support in the Coming elections. 'Eighty out of eightyfive seats in the Lok Sabha from the State would be with us". This generously optimistic prediction has been expressed by leaders of the Congress and the Janata front.

Though the claims of victory remain a distant hope with either party, the issues on which the elections will be fought have become clear as far as U.P. is concerned. Compulsion in family planning, land revenue, increased irrigation rates, MISA arrests and prices are the issues at stake.

The Congress is in somewhat disadvantageous position in regard to these. The resignation of Mr. Jagajivan Ram, Mr H.N. Bahuguna and others from the party has served a certain blow on the prospects of the Congress particularly in this State and neighbouring Bihar.

As the opposition candidates are yet to organise a systematic campaign, there is a generel confidence in the Congress circles that it will emerge victorious. This, even without the support of the CPI as in 1971 and 1974 elections.

The election scene in this State takes away all the attraction in the rest of the country because of the high dignitaries staking their claims. Besides the Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi and Mr. Sanjay Gandhi, a number of central Ministers and party luminaries are contesting in the elections from this State. The same is true with the opposition also. Mr Charan Singh, Vice-Chairman of the Janata Party, Mr Chand a Sekhar, Mr Nanaji Deshmukh, Mr H.N Bahuguna and his wife Mrs Kamala Bahuguna, Dr Sushila Nayyar and Mr Raj Narain are in the fray.

Former Rani Drops Purdah To Fight Janata

In Uttar Pradesh, the former Rani of Balrampur, Mrs Raj Kumari Devi, has come out of purdah to contest the Lok Sabha poll on the Congress ticket. She is opposing Mr Nanaji Deshmuk, the Janata Party leader.

Mrs Devi's family is known for its benevolence and munificence. The Palace is like a dharmasala.

The former Rani appears like an Indian nun with her shaven head covered with sari. She is a widow and has never gone out of the Palace. Her son is a local leader of the Youth Congress.

In 1971, she declined an offer to contest the election on the opposition ticket saying that she was in purdah.

Liquid Fertilizer: A New Concept In Dry Farming

By S. RAY, R. P. SHARMA & J. P. SHARMA

A new technique has been developed to tackle the problems of poor crop stand and meagre response to fertilizer application of dry land tracts.

The technique consists of drilling fertilizer in a liquid from by a special applicator, just below the seed.

In most of the dry farming areas where rain occurs mainly in kharif season, the top soil layer becomes dry at rabi sowing time. If a crop is sown on such a dry soil, the seedlings soon dry off because of lack of moisture around the roots. It becomes virtually impossible to obtain a good stand of rabi crop.

Linked up with the moisture problem is the problem of making the fertilizer available to the crop. It is known that the applied fertilizer is taken up in the liquid form by the roots for which the moisture is a must.

Both the problems of water deficiency and nutrients insolubility under dry farming conditions may be solved if fertilizer is applied in the liquid form just below the seed.

Studies conducted at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, revealed that application of liquid fertilizer ensures 100 per cent seedling emergence of wheat crop under dry farming conditions. It produced 30 quintals per hectare of grain yield as against 10 quintals obtained by the traditional method of dry farming.

For getting the desirable results, allow the seeds to soak for 12 hours in water before sowing. Water soluble forms of plant nutrients or fertilizer should be dissolved in sufficient quantity of water and kept overnight. Then dilute this solution with more water and apply it to the field through the applicator just below the seed. In the experiments diammonium phosphate and urea were used as the source of phosphatic and nitrogenous fertilizers.

This will increase the percentage of seedling emergence and will raise the grain yield considerably.

The liquid fertilizer links up the artificially created wet soil from the seed level with the moist soil layer of sub-surface. This allows the undisturbed growth of crop.

Secondly, liquid fertilizer, unlike dry fertilizer application, does not require rainfall or high soil moisture situation to be available to the plants.

For dry farming areas the volume of liquid fertilizer to be applied should be naturally be small, as there is always a chronic shortage of water.

Application of small volume of water effectively at the proper place requires an efficient application technique. It is possible to obtain the desirable pattern of soil wetting by making vertical slits in the soil. Through these, water is allowed to move fast to the bottom of the slit. Then it starts wetting the lower soil depths at a slower rate.

For this, a special applicator is needed, so as to make a semi circular wet zone of 15 to 20 cm radius, just below the seed. It connects the wet top soil with the moist sub soil.

The quantity of water should be increased with the increase in fertilizer dose.

If a provision is made for one supplemental irrigation at the boot stage of the crop, the grain yield may reach upto the production level of irrigated farming.

For The Week 6th. March To 12th, March 1977

MESHA

FAVOURABLE period continues. You should make best use of this opportunity to finalise important transactions Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments. Health requires attention. You can expect cooperation from family members. Avoid long distance travel for some more time. Property matters should be handl.d properly to avoid complications. You should be prepared for unexpected developments on 9th & 10th.

★

RISHABA

FAVOURABLE period to implement your programme. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Partnership matters could be finalised favourably. Business prospects will improve. You can also try to start new ventures. Health will be well maintained. You may have to undertake a long distance travel. Matters relat ng to children could be finalised. You can expect cooperation from family members. Matters relating to transport and communication requires attention. Favourable days: 7th & 8th.

★

MITHUNA

MIXED results are indicated. Avoid legal complications. And also avoid friction with family members. Financial position will not be satisfactory. Avoid speculative investments. You will be able to solve some of your problems by the end of this month. Property matters could be finalised favourably. Health will improve. Matters relating to brothers and sisters could be settled favourably. Partnership matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. You should be prepared for some changes in your office. Favourable days: 9th & 10th.

KATAKA

YOU should wait for some more time to get complete relief. Avoid friction with partners and associates. Financial position will improve. You can not expect much cooperation from your family members. Matters relating to children could be finalised. Change of place is indicated for some. You may be hearing from a relative or friend living in a foreign country. Health requires extra care. Avoid long distance travel. Favourable days: 11th & 12th.

★

SIMHA

FAVOURABLE period continues for some more time. You should try to make best use of this opportunity to reorganise your set up. Important changes are indicated both in dom stic and official set up in the near future. Family members will be cooperative. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments. You may have to undertake a journey shortly. Favourable days: 7th & 8th.

★

KANYA

FAVOURABLE period to implement your programme. You should try to make best use of this opportunity to improve your prospects. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments for some more time. Health will be well maintained. If you are planning to visit foreign countries, you should start making arrangements. Family members will be cooperative. Matters relating to children could be finalised. Favourable days: 9th & 10th.

★

THULA

YOU should wait for some more time to implement your programme. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Family matters could be finalised. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments. Health requires attention You should be cautious in dealing with strangers. You will be able to solve some of your problems in a month's time. Avoid long distance travel. Favourable days: 7th & 8th.

★

VRISCHIKA

FAVOURABLE period to implement your programme. You should try to expand your business activities. You should be able to finalise partnership deals favourably. Health will improve. Financial position will be satisfactory. Speculative gains are also indicated. Family members will be cooperative. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Favourable days: 6th & 7th.

★

DHANUS

MIXED results are indicated. You should wait for some more time to implement your plans. Financial position will not be satisfactory. You should also avoid speculative investments for some more time. Property matters require attention. You should be prepared for some major changes in your office. Family matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Favourable days: 7th & 8th.

MAKARA

MIXED results are indicated. Health requires attention. Partnership matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Family matters should be handled properly to avoid friction. Financial position will not be satisfactory. Business prospects wi l improve. You may be able to start new ventures. You should avoid friction with superiors. You will be able to reap the benefits for the efforts you are making now after a month's time. Favourable days: 9th & 10th.

★

KUMBHA

MIXED results are indicated. Financial position will improve. You can expect cooperation from your family members. You should also try to expand your business activities. Promotional possibilities are bright. You may have to undertake short journeys frequently. Avoid friction with associates. Property matters could be finalised favourably. Health requires attention. Legal matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Favourable days: 11th & 12

★

MEENA

YOU will be able to slove some of your problems with cooperation of your family members. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments. Matters relating to brothers and sisters could be finalised favourably. Partnership matters could be finalised. Matters relating to children should be handled properly to avoid complications. You may be hearing from relatives and friends with whom you have lost touch some time back. You should be prepared for unexpected developments on 7th & 8th.

FUN AND LAUGHTER

SURE !

The wife of an almost bankrupt business man said at breakfast: "Will you post this letter for me, dear? It's to the jeweller, counter-manding my order for that £1,000 necklace. You'll be sure to remember?"

The eyes of the harassed businessman lit up with joy. He seized a skipping rope that lay with some dolls and toy in a corner and said to his wife; "Here, tie my right hand to my left foot so that I won't forgot."

* * *

IDENTITY

Said the dresser to the actress: "There's a gentleman at the door who insists on coming in."

"Did you ask for his card ?" inquired the star.

"Yes, but he only laughed and tried to kiss me."

"Oh, let him in," said the actress. "That's my husband!"

MORE CAREFUL

He was rather small, and had been used to sleeping with a nightlight in the room but his parents had decided that he must start sleeping in the dark. When his mother put out the light, he asked, plaintively. "Must I sleep in the dark, Mummy?"

"Yes, darling." was the reply, "you're getting a big boy now."

"Well, may I say my prayers over again—more carefully ?"

* * *

FAVOUR

Six-year-old Bobby arrived home clutching a toy motorcar. "Where did you get that?" asked his mother.

"I got it from Johnny for doing him a favour."

"What was the favour?"

"I was hitting him in the face and he asked me to stop," said Johnny.

SALES MAN

A couple of Americans were touring England, and one of them went into a village store for some cigarettes. On coming out, he said to his companion. "Say, Hiram, I've just hired the young man behind the counter in that shop. He's coming to America with us when we return. Salesmanship? Why, do you know what he did ? A fellow came into the shop to buy a cuckoo-clock, and that young man actually sold him a packet of bird-seed with it ?"

* * *

FORGOT THE COUNT

"I'd like to know how many girls you made love to before you met me," said the wife during a quarrel.

"Twelve," groaned her husband. "But I forgot to count them until it was too late."

From Page 1

Janata Alliance ....

The very fact that we have announced elections when we need not have at least for a year more, refutes the charge of authoritarianism.

Q: There is a lot of talk about the family planning programme. It has found wide acceptance in the country. There is no doubt about that point. But there have been complaints of coercion, which you have also referred to in a number of your speeches. You have made it clear that the family planning programme is voluntary. But the Opposition is out to exploit it in the election. How do you expect the Congress Party or the Congress workers or you even to deal with this kind of propaganda? After all in any programme some mistakes are bound to occur.

P.M: There is so much false propaganda not only about family planning but practically everything. We just have t meet it head-on. I have repeatedly stated that the Government's policy is that there will not be any compulsion. Our manifesto makes this clear. We believe that it should be a people's movement and the people should be educated. Already wherever there has been any progress whether it is industrial progress or agricultural progress or even better education, we have found that there people automatically are having smaller families. So it is linked with development and it is relevant to our future.

Mistakes have been made, sometimes through overzealousness and sometimes deliberately by people who wanted to create a situation. It has to be explained to the people. Some of the things the opposition has said are grossly exaggerated. You know that in Delhi and UP they went to the extent of saying that the children who were being immunised against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, were being sterilised.

That shows the extent to which they are willing to go, I quite frankly do not think that is the part of the freedom of expression.

But we do want to reassure every person at every place that family planning is a voluntary movement and we shall strive our best to ensure that it is so.

MERIT AND CASTE

Q. The Congress Party has now nearly finished its selection of candidates. In the selection the main, criterion has been merit and that elections should be fought on programmes and policies. Do you expect the other parties not to create caste and communal feelings?

PM: Well, many of these parties are based on caste considerations today, and that is rather unfortunate. Cast feelings are very much there and some heed has to be paid to them during elections. Every group wants representation, but now there are so many subgroups that it is becoming more and more difficult, But I think that the present set-up of the Opposition as well as recent defections do lay greater stress on caste, which is unfortunate.

In choosing our candidates we have tried—but I don't know whether we have always succeeded—to choose persons who reflect the Congress policy, who enjoy local confidence and have a record of service plus also some new faces. And then we have to think of those who will win. It is no use putting up a good person if you think he does not have much of a chance.

By and large our people reflect the wide diversity of the country and we have tried our best to give adequate representation to minorities and special interests.

Q: According to the Opposition, the main issue in the elections is strengthening democracy. You have stressed the need for stability. Obviously stability does not mean status quo. In what way can democracy and stability be strengthened?

PM: Not only does stability not mean status quo, but if you stick to the status quo, it is difficult to keep stability after a time, because you have to move with the times and with the changing needs and demands of the people. To us stability means conditions of co-operative endeavour in which the nation's strength is enhanced to bring about change and solve the problems of poverty and disparities. Also it is essential to have an atmosphere of discipline and responsibility, of national purposiveness, which will inhibit anyone, especially outsiders, from being tempted to push us around.

NEW PRIDE

Q: Some of the gains of Emergency are visible. For instance, the sense of discipline which has been imbibed during the last 19 months. But could you in a nutshell, tell us some of the main features of what we have gained during these 19 months as people and in what sense we have gained and how can we preserve our gains in future and go forward from there and not slide backward again?

PM: The most important gain is the new pride in being Indian. Now that is based on the economic and other gains. Experts from international organisations and from Governments who do not necessarily agree with our policies and who have criticised us and do critise us on many things, have been forced to acknowledge that considerable advance has been made in all directions. The question is how can we preserve the gains. We have tried our best to do this by the constitutional amendments. We think that administration of the law should help rather than hinder social change. Amongst industrial workers and farmers, there is a sense of responsibility in regard to increasing production.

I think Government employees also have shown a greater sense of responsibility and involvement in what they are doing.

Even traders have cooperated. Another gain is the ban on communal parties. These were the groups that used to be disruptive. Their being banned has also helped. But the real thing is a continuous educational process, education of the people to recognise that a sense of responsibility and discipline must be self-imposed. With us that you cannot have anything else— I mean even democracy will be threatened

PRICE FRONT

Q: In the election manifestos and other speeches many of these people are talking about price increase. There has been increase before and after the relaxation of emergency. Is it due to relaxation of emergency and unscrupulous people taking advantage of the relaxed conditions? What are the steps you will take against price rise?

PM: There are many contributory factors to the rise in some prices. Whenever there is a marginal fall in production, trade puts up prices disproportionately.

While the emergency laws were being enforced fully, fear of stringent action prevented speculative forces from rearing their head.

There has been a small shortfall in the production of groundnut, cotton and pulses, and trade has used this to push up prices of these items sharply. So in that sense the relaxation of emergency has contributed. In the short run Government will use the large stocks of foodgrains and the available foreign exchange to check this. There have been some delays in importing Unfortunately some part of it is due to us and part of it because of the bad weather in the West owing to which some of the ships have been caught in blizzards. But from March on-wards good quantities, of oils fibres and cotton will be arriving and I am sure the psychology of shortage on which the trader is banking will be removed.

Although the present price rise is sectional, prices are still lower than they were earlier. And we are very vigilant about money supply also. We are taking special steps to increase production. In our manifesto we have proposed the formation of Commodity Stabilisation Corporation for all major crops. The object is to ensure remunerative prices for the farmers, increase production and supply and stabilise the prices.

Q: This has reference to your last Monday's speech at the Red Fort that political parties should evolve a tradition of national consensus in the interest of national unity and the country's economic growth. How can such a consensus be brought about?

PM: I do not think I used the word 'consensus'. I do not remember which Hindi world I used. What I said was that even though we may oppose one another in many areas, if there is any area in which there can be cooperation then we should cooperate. For instance if there is an external aggression we have cooperated, although some groups did try to take advantage of even that last time.

If there is any area at all in which we can cooperate, then we should cooperate in that area, and we should not let bitterness stand in the way.

Many people in the opposing groups are full of bitterness and hatred and we would like our politics, our policies and programmes to be free of bitterness hatred and violence.

USUAL ONE

Q: This is the usual final question which is bound to be

(Contd. on page 8)

Statement about ownership and other particulars about newspaper, "Free India" Madras.

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Estate of late E. R. Govindan, 44, Seethamma Colony, Madras-18. Mr. Kandasundaram, c/o. Mr. R. Sundaram, Ramalinga Vilas, Extension, Salem. Mr. S. N. Subramania Chetty, 77, Mint Street, Madras. Mr. E. V. Subramanian, Kadayanallur, Mr. P. S. Tirumalai, Merchant, Virudhunagar, Dr. R. Venkatachari, Virudunagar, Mr. D. Krishnamurthy, 11, Appakannu Mudali Street, Royapettah, Madras-14, Mr. G. Rangarajan, 44, Seethamma Colony, Madras-18. Mrs. Rukmini Narayanan 2, Para kusapuram, Kodambakkam, Madras. Mr. P. Raju Pillai, 35, Kumarappa Mudali Street, Madras-34.

I. G. Rangarajan, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

G. RANGARAJAN
Publisher

1-3-77

ZINA KAKA

Zinabhai Dajibai Narik, the 73 year old young man, ran all the way from Sabarmathi Asram in Ahmedabad to Rajghat in New Delhi, covering a distance of about 1000 Kms in 37 day. For him the trip from Gandhiji's ashram to his samadhi was like a pilgrimage. He began his marathin run on January 30, Gandhiji's death anniversary day.

Popularly known as Zina Kaka, Narik took to running when he was 52 Educated upto the sixth class, Narik began his career as a worker on a Ship. Later he joined a textile mill as a sizer. At 55 he developed an interest in running and other outdoor sports also. An excellent swimmer, at 65 he swam 20 kms from Trombay to the Gateway of India. At 68 he took a more formidable task—swimming the Narmada from the point it touches the sea upstream to the point of its origin–a distance of over 900 kms.

Narik is a keen mountaineer also. He climbed the 12,000 ft. Gangotri peak. He has participated in many cycling competitions. Besides, he has developed interest in painting, drama, make-up and tabla.

His daily routine starts with running for an hour and swimming for a couple of hours. Then he devotes himself to social service. "If you want to live, walk. If you want to live long run" is his advice for his countrymen.

Avargal: Old Wine In New Bottle

K. Balachander has developed his own formula for making films. We have witnessed them earlier. "Avargal" has not changed from his pet formula. As such Kalakendra's latest in Tamil 'AVARGAL' is nothing but old wine in new bottle.

It is about the heroine portrayed by Sujatha, who comes in a train to Madras, stays for some time and then proceeds on her onward journey. Divorcing her husband Rajanikanth, Sujatha comes to the city where she meets her old lover who offers to marry her. But due to the machinations of her erstwhile husband the marriage arrangement breaks. And she is left alone to look after herself. This is in short the central theme of the film.

Anybody else would have faltered in handling the theme which has no intrinsic value. But Balachander has got his own artistic touches with which he has made this lengthy film presentable.

Outstanding photographic angles and special effects by B. Loganath adds to the value of the film.

It is Leelavathi, as the unusual mother-in-law, who steals the show. Ravikumar, introduced in this film, has done well and has a future before him. Sujatha, Kamalahasan and Rajanikanth have done their roles appreciably.

Music is of average quality.

One feels that it has some unwanted sequences which do not go with the theme. If trimmed, it would make a short and enjoyable movie.—G.V.

From page 7

asked of a leader: how do you view the prospects of the Congress Party in the forthcoming poll?

PM: The question has been asked of me in every election and by-election, but I have made it a rule not to prophesy about elections. I can only say that the Congress is the only party with a known record of taking a national view on all issues, not sectional or provincial. It has a record of holding together all classes and regions and of reconciling conflicts amicably. It is committed to non-alignment in foreign affairs and upholding the national interests abroad. The Congress has well-thought-out programme about the inter-relationship between political, economic, technological and social policies in a manner that there are no contradictions. To hand over the Government to coalitions which contain contradictory pulls is to forfeit the strength gained in the last 30 years and to throw the nation into confusion.

I think only the Congress can give the nation a sense of certainty.

SOVIET COOPERATION WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

More and more countries are approaching the Soviet Union with requests for technical assistance. Presently talks on cooperation are in progress with 15 countries. This has been stated by Ivan Mekrukov, Deputy Minister of Assembly and Special Construction Works of the USSR.

"Our assistance", the Minister stressed, "helps to strengthen friendly relations between the States. It is not conditioned by any political demands. We are prepared to assist, on mutually advantageous terms, all countries who are interested in this".

Ivan Mekrukov said that at present "we are giving assistance in the national projects of India, Bangladesh, Algeria, Egypt, the Congo, Turkey and other countries."

The Ministry of Assembly and Special Construction of the USSR is supervising the construction of industrial and cultural projects in 19 developing countries.

You are aware that an agreement on the supply of one million tons of Soviet oil to India during this year and on the supplies of a wide range of Indian goods to the USSR was initialled in Moscow recently.

In an interview, the head of the Indian delegation, Mr. Prem Kumar, Secretary in the Union Ministry of Commerce stressed that oil is a major factor in stimulating India's economic development. He noted that the principle of clearing exchange which makes it possible to avoid payments in hard currency, has been underlying Soviet-Indian trade for a quarter of a century. Oil has also become an item in the clearing trade between the two countries.

Prem Kumar pointed out that the trade relations between the Soviet Union and India have been steadily expanding. In the past few years both the countries have found possibilities for extending the assortment of their trade exchange. In his view, industrial cooperation is another feature, characteristic of the new trends in Soviet-Indian trade. For instance, the Soviet Union and India are jointly supplying equipment for the metallurgical plants in Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. He noted that in 1977 the goods turnover between the two countries would top 10,000 million rupees, a record figure for Soviet-Indian trade relations.

The head of the Soviet trade delegation M. A. Kiselyou pointed out that this trade deal would boost the annual trade turnover between the two countries by 15–20 per cent. He stressed that the Soviet side regarded this agreement as implementation of the provision for furthering Soviet-Indian trade which were fixed in the joint declarations signed in 1973 and 1976.

* * *

THEY WELD THESE CLOTHES

I've been shown some unusual garments made by the Ukrainian Sewing Research Institute.

But they aren't sewn—they're welded. They are made of material manufactured from thermoplastic fibres, which stick firmly together when heated to a high temperature.

Such clothes are ideal for waterproof overalls and suits for miners, oil workers, divers and the like.

The heat (much greater, in case you're wondering, than what you'd get from an iron) is provided by a "supersonic generator and concentrator".

It's practically impossible to tear one of the welded seams apart. You can simply lay the parts of a cut-out garment on a flat surface and weld them together, which considerably improves output. Supersonic seams can also greatly improve men's suits and women's dresses, in which conventional sewn seams tend to spoil the pattern.

* * *

TOP-NOTCH AIRBUS

Passengers and crews are delighted with the performance of the IL 86, the new "third generation" 350-seater jet airbus, on her flying trials which began a month ago.

She has a wide body with two decks, four powerful turboprop engines under the wings, every comfort for the passengers and all the latest navigation and piloting equipment which permits flying on time in any whether.

One IL 86 can replace three IL 18s or eight AN 24s and better meet the needs of the times. Last summer, for instance, no fewer than 400 planes a day were landing at Sochi, the Black Sea health resort

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